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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/742,654	12/21/2000	Michael Hannington	AVERP2850US	7505

7590

01/23/2003

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EXAMINER

CHANG, VICTOR S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/742,654

Applicant(s)

HANNINGTON, MICHAEL

Examiner

Victor S Chang

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 and 32-95 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 53-95 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 and 32-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 11. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Rejections not maintained are withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

3. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 27-29 and 32-52, in Paper No. 12 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that both Group I and Group II include a facestock adhered to an adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive layer has non-adhesive material forms embedded in the adhesive; and are both classified in class 428, subclass 343; and there is no different field of search for the adhesive articles. This is not found persuasive. The Examiner reiterates that Group I requires the non-adhesive materials embedded below the adhesive surface only, while Group II is made by a different method and the adhesive article has different configuration of having the non-adhesive materials embedded flush or below the adhesive surface. As such, these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Response to Amendment

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling, substantially for the reasons set forth in section 8 of Paper No. 10 and section 6 of Paper No. 8, together with the following additional observations.

While Applicant's amendment to claim 1, lines 6-7, to include the phrase "that provide air egress, wherein the non-adhesive material forms are" addresses the critical or essential feature to the practice of the invention, it is noted that Applicant still fails to respond at all to the Examiner's question (see section 6 of Paper No. 8) that it seems unlikely that a recessed route, lined with non-adhesive material, as shown in Fig. 3b, would collapse and adhere to the facestock, while pulling the adhesive away from the substrate to form air egress routes (channel 36 in Fig. 3c) at the interface of adhesive layer and substrate. If further prosecution, i.e., a CPA or RCE, is contemplated, the Examiner would like to strongly urge Applicant provides Declaration(s) which focuses on the feasibility of, in particular, how the generally deformable not fully cured pressure sensitive adhesive can be pulled away from the substrate to form air egress routes by the force generated by collapsing (or adhering) the non-adhesive material to the also inherently non-adhesive facestock. Declaration should be made by a relatively disinterested person such as, e.g., a customer.

5. Claims 27-29 and 32-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly

connected, to make and/or use the invention, substantially for the reasons set forth in section 9 of Paper No. 10, together with the following additional observations.

With respect to Applicant's argument that the amended claim 27 recites an embodiment in which the bottom surfaces of the non-adhesive material forms are above the plane of the lower surface of the adhesive layer, and this embodiment may be made by simultaneous printing and embedding, such as flexographic printing (Response, page 4, first complete paragraph), the Examiner would like to point out that according to the amended claim 27 a suitable pressure sensitive adhesive which deforms permanently upon flexographic printing must be disclosed in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Since known pressure sensitive adhesives are viscoelastic materials, i.e., not permanently deformable, the absence of such suitable permanently deformable adhesives in the disclosure renders claim 27 in excess of its provided enablement.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S Chang whose telephone number is 703-605-4296. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H Morris can be reached on 703-308-2414. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

VSC
VSC
January 16, 2003

DANIEL ZIRKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300-
1700

Daniel Zinker